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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	x	ARMY	Ev	x	NAVY	x	AIR	Ev	x	FBI		AEC				
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution: By "##".)

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Military Information

1. There was no indication of unusual military activity in the railroad stations of Sofia, Plovdiv, Ruse, Dimitrovgrad, or Gorna Oryakhovitsa. Civilian travel was unrestricted, and there were no military or civilian document checks.
2. Kodzha Beg Demir¹ (N 41-31, E 25-21) is surrounded by trenches at a point approximately 150 meters from the top. The trenches are approximately five feet deep and three feet wide. [redacted] the trenches were no more than a week old since the earth which had been recently scooped out was piled in heaps in front of the trenches and had not yet been spread out. The surrounding flora provided natural camouflage. In certain places the trenches widen, probably for machine gun emplacements. 25X1
3. Trenches were also observed approximately 800 meters north of Dzhebel (N 41-30, E 25-19), on the western side of the Dzhebel-Kurdzhali road. The trenches, of the same dimensions as those mentioned above, were running in an east-west direction. Round, cement platforms for machine guns were noted. The corner of the platform was just below the upper edge of the trench (i.e., the gunner would shoot from a standing position).
4. At the point approximately 15-20 minutes by train from Kurdzhali, going north on the Kurdzhali-Khaskovo line,² a group of soldiers were washing their clothes in the Arda River. On the left side of the tracks, another group was playing volleyball. The soldiers in both groups totaled approximately 100 men. On the left side of the tracks, approximately 50-75 meters from the railroad line, the roof of a building (or buildings) was visible. The area in which the roof was seen was surrounded by fence which [redacted] was made of wood. No further details concerning the building or the men. 25X1
5. At Malevo (N 41-51, E 25-37), one train of flatcars was observed standing in the station. The flatcars were loaded with the following:
 - a. Four, brand-new artillery pieces, [redacted] 105 mm, Soviet or Czech model. 25X1
 - b. Two halftracks, approximately two and one-half tons. larger than weapons carriers, dark green color; [redacted] they are used for towing artillery. 25X1
 - c. An airport, on the side of the tracks opposite the station; runway not visible; buildings which may have been hangars; two Soviet bi-planes and one YAK were visible.³ No personnel were observed.
 - d. One hundred wooden boxes, 3 x 5 x 1½ feet, on the station platform; two soldiers, supervised by an officer, were unloading more boxes from an olive drab military truck. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] A soldier, using both hands, carried each end of the box. It was not possible to determine in which direction the merchandise was being shipped. 25X1

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6. There is a small airfield approximately five kilometers from Dimitrograd in the direction of Plovdiv. The field is situated on the left side of the railroad tracks. One small hangar and one Soviet bi-plane were visible. The runway was of hard-packed earth. No people were observed.

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7. On 27 September 1953 on a siding at Gorna Oryakhovitsa, [] four antiaircraft artillery pieces, which appeared to be slightly larger than 20 mm. They were not the German type [] There were two guns per flatcar, and four soldiers on each flatcar. Between the station and the town, on the right hand side of the road approximately one kilometer from town, four heavy antiaircraft guns were observed. They were nearer to the station than to the town and were located in such a way that it was obvious that they were meant to protect the station.

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Economic

8. On the Zlatograd-Kürdzhal road, between the hours of 0400 and 0700, trucks, which sounded as if they were loaded, were heard passing at the rate of approximately one every 30-40 minutes. Between the hours of 0700 and 1900 the trucks passed at irregular intervals of at least one every ten minutes. It often sounded as if there were two trucks instead of one; however, no more than two were heard at a time. The trucks were traveling in both directions along the road.

9. On another occasion [] the Zlatograd-Kürdzhal road over a period of five hours. Trucks were seen going in both directions at the rate of one every ten minutes. The trucks had one bin which was about 10 feet long, 6 feet wide and three feet deep; they were loaded with grey-black gravel which usually had a dull metallic luster. Sometimes the luster was lacking. Coming back from Kürdzhal the trucks were loaded with gravel and lumber.

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10. [] 20-30 one-story buildings and one 3-story building, between Kürdzhal and Dobrovolets (N 41-38 E 25-25), approximately one and one-half kilometers from the Kürdzhal railroad station at the right (south) side of the tracks. [] a large tower crowned with a big 5-point star which lighted red. The buildings were lighted with very bright street lights. Militiamen were guarding the buildings. Lumber and steel were visible inside. The northern side of the railroad tracks was lined with warehouses and the southern side with homes for workers (see sketch on page 5).

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11. A bridge is being constructed over the railroad tracks approximately two kilometers from the Kürdzhal station (see No. 3 of the sketch on page 5). The bridge could accommodate one - or possibly two - trucks of the type described in paragraph nine above.

12. [] crops in the Svilengrad area are very bad and that they are even worse in the Perperek (N 41-41, E 25-32) area. Corn and cotton crops in the Khaskovo area are not good. No additional details.

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13. Rough sketches [] of the station area in Dimitrovgrad and of the Georgi Dimitrov Agricultural Equipment Zavod in Ruse are included on pages 6 and 7 respectively.

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Industrial Installation near Kurdzhali

1. Dobrovolets
2. Gara Kurdzhali
3. Railroad bridge
4. Warehouses for cement, iron, and lumber
5. Observation tower
6. Power plant (elektro-tsentrāl)
7. Office and residence
8. Workers houses
9. Barracks
10. Repair and assembly garage for trucks
11. Workers houses (wood on stone foundations)
12. Guard post

Dimitrovgrad (Station Area)

1. Factory (fabrika)
2. Military barracks
3. Railroad station
4. Toilets

Georgi Dimitrov Agricultural Equipment Zavod

1. Weaving factory
2. Courtyard of the weaving factory
3. Soap factory
4. Courtyard of soap factory
5. Courtyard of the Georgi Dimitrov Zavod
6. Offices
7. Smelting Shop
8. Smithy
9. Lathe Shop
10. Plumbing shop
11. Maintenance and assembly shop
12. Router (Frez machine)
13. Shipper
14. Warehouse
15. Construction building
16. Former Razpopovi Brothers weaving factory; now part of the Zavod
17. New buildings
18. Militia booth

Comment:

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1. Hill #515.2 on Sheet VIII-6 of the Deutches Heereskarte 1: 100,000 Map series.

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2. Probably in the vicinity of Shiroko Pole.

3. [] bi-planes and YAKs []

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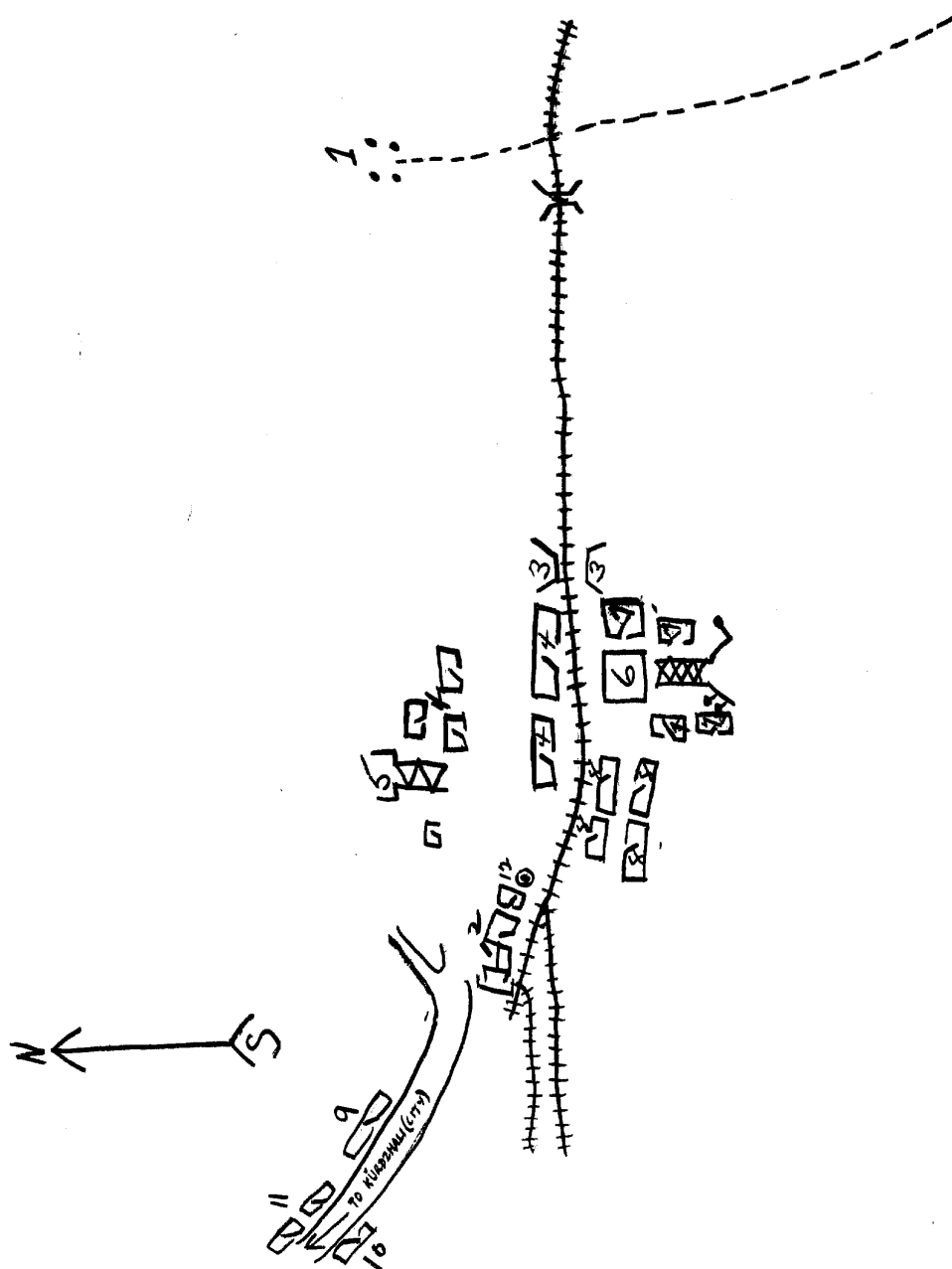
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Industrial Installation near Kurdzhali



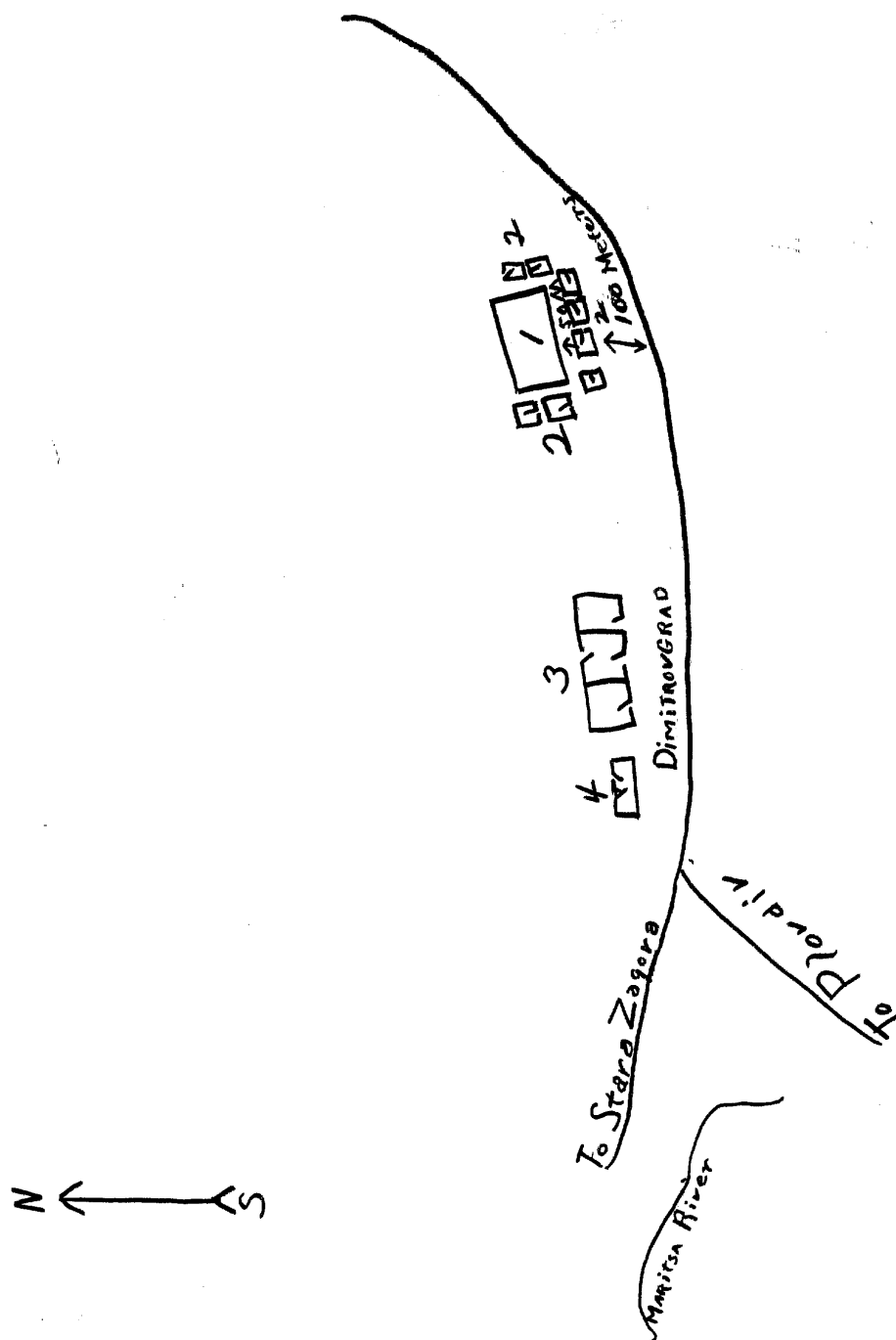
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Dimitrovgrad (Station Area)



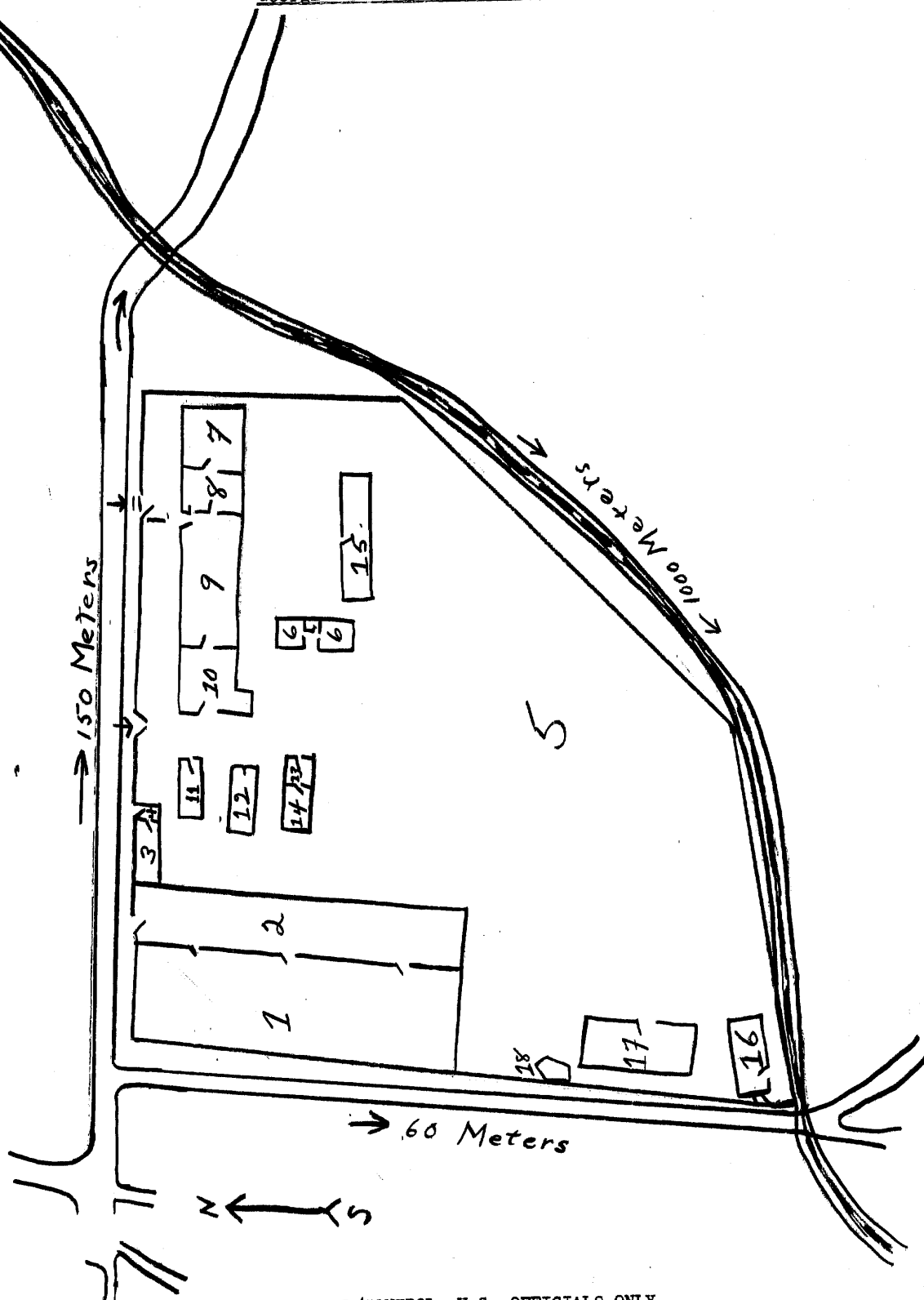
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Georgi Dimitrov Agricultural Equipment Zavod



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